

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00930 242020Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSC-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 108
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CT
SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL CHANGE

REF: BANGUI 778

1. IMPERIAL DECREE DATED APRIL 2) AND RELEASED APRIL 22
ANNOUNCES DISMISSAL OF JEAN-PIERRE BOUBA AS MINISTER OF
TRANSPORT AND APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS ALAZOULA, FORMERLY HEAD OF
STATE COTTON COMPANY UCCA. ALAZOULA IS REPLACED AT UCCA BY
ALBERT MADIABOLA.

2. COMMENT: BOUBA HAD ALREADY LOST THE PORTFOLIO OF POSTS
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (REFTEL), AND HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE
TRANSPORT MINISTRY IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE CAE'S TRANSPORT
PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF LOW WATER IN THE OUBANGUI RIVER.
ALAZOULA AND MADIABOLA BOTH LOST THEIR JOBS FOR ALLEGED
FETICHISM AT THE IMPERIAL COURT IN MID-JANUARY. ALAZOULA,
WHO HAS BEEN A MINISTER ON AND OFF SINCE 1967, WAS REINSTATED
OVERNIGHT, BUT MADIABOLA, WHO HAD BEEN A MINISTER AT THE COURT
IN CHARGE OF THE CAISSE DE STABILISATION, REMAINED UNDER
HOUSE ARREST AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. HIS RETURN AFTER BEING
DISCIPLINED IS TYPICAL OF BOKASSA'S HANDLING OF HIS MINISTERS.

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3. THE OVERALL IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES IS NOT PARTICULARLY
POSITIVE. ALTHOUGH BOUBA WAS ALMOST UNIVERSALLY REGARDED
AS INCOMPETENT, ALAZOULA IS NOT LIKELY TO BE MUCH OF AN
IMPROVEMENT. ALAZOULA, WHO HAS HELD ALMOST EVERY MINISTRY
IN GOVERNMENT, IS SHREWD, CALCULATING AND AMBITIOUS. HE
HAS NOT, HOWEVER, BEEN MUCH OF A SUCCESS AT UCCA AND COTTON
PRODUCTION DECLINED DURING HIS TENURE. MADIABOLA HAS EXTENSIVE

EXPERIENCE IN FINANCE AND BANKING AND MAY BE ABLE TO RUN UCCA.
HE DOES NOT, HOWEVER, KNOW MUCH ABOUT AGRICULTURE, UNLIKE HIS
TWO PREDECESSORS WHO WERE BOTH AGRONOMISTS. MADIABOLA IS FAMILIAR
WITH THE US AND SPENT SIX MONTHS IN DETROIT IN 1976 WITH GEORGES
BOKASSA ON A TRAINING ASSIGNMENT.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

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